

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 692

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to commend John C. Hough for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee as an Assistant Public Defender for Shelby County.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Jack Hough, a highly respected member of the Memphis community, is one such person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as an Assistant Public Defender for Shelby County, Mr. Hough has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, in his thirty years in the Shelby County Public Defender's Office, Jack Hough has handled a number of high-profile criminal cases and has served as a "walking library" for his colleagues; each year, he compiles a list of the legislature's changes in criminal law and distributes it to defense colleagues, prosecutors, and judges throughout the Criminal Justice Center; and

WHEREAS, soon after he joined the public defender's office, Jack Hough organized a legal clinic and, each month, took a carload of law students to a West Tennessee prison to

provide legal assistance to young inmates; later, he mobilized another group of law students to represent defendants whose paroles were in jeopardy; and

WHEREAS, Shelby County Chief Public Defender, A. C. Wharton, Jr., describes Mr. Hough as "the father to the office" who tutors the young lawyers and insists on decorum, courtesy, and respect toward every client; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hough's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, Jack Hough was featured in *The Commercial Appeal* series, "A Thousand Points of Light," for his off-duty volunteer work such as teaching adults to read and checking on elderly parishioners at St. Patrick's Church; he has also graciously volunteered his legal services for his Vollintine-Evergreen neighborhood in addressing zoning issues; and

WHEREAS, Jack Hough is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong bachelor, Jack Hough is grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his mother, two brothers, two sisters, and nineteen nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hough is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby commend Jack Hough for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as an Assistant Public Defender for Shelby County and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

